scale of Assistant Engineer, that is, Rs. 2000-3500 on a personal basis after completion of 15 years of total service as Junior Engineers on fitness basis. This decision is effective from 1.1.1991. This would give considerable relief to the Junior engineers with long years of service.

Disaster in Indravati Power Project, Orissa

@4003. SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a major disaster which occurred in the tunnel of the World Bank funded multi-purpose Hydro Electric Upper Indravati Power Project under construction in Orissa since 1978;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of a commission being set up by Government of Orissa to find out the causes of the disaster by the State's Special Relief Commissioner;

(c) whether the Central Government were informed of the findings of the Commission; and

(d) if so, what action the Central Government have taken/propose to take as World Bank funding is supposedly done at the Central Government's instance?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI V.C. SHUKLA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Subsequent to the flooding of the headrace tunnel of Upper Indravati Hydro-electric Project on 28th July, 1991, the Government of Orissa set up a Committee headed by Development Commissioner, Orissa to ascertain the causes that led to the tragedy and pin point the deficiencies and failures that contributed to it and also give suggestions about preventive measures to be taken to avoid such tragedies in future.

The Committee in its Report submitted to the State Government in October, 1991 found the Project management wanting in preparation of the specifications for the Coffer Dam as well as in enforcement of the contract conditions with the Contractor with regard to safety aspects of the work. It also suggested the necessity for effective communication for avoiding such tragedies in future. Since the irrigation projects are executed by the State Governments, it is for Orissa Government to take action as deemed fit on the findings.

Water Crisis in Asia in the Next Century

@@4004. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Times of India dated the 22nd September, 1992 under the caption "Water crisis likely in Asia next century";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to overcome the difficulties mentioned therein?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI V.C. SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

Most of the issues raised in the newsitem have already been considered by the Government and are covered in the National Water Policy adopted by the National Water Resources Council in September, 1987. To maximise the availability of water, the National Water Policy has recommended that resource planning in the case of water has to be done for a hydrological unit such as a basin/sub-basin so that all the requirements of water in each sub-basin and basin can be assessed and the surplus

@Previously Unstarred Question 2360 transferred from 8th December 1992.

**Includes State Sector Projects

@@Previously Unstarred Question 2806 transferred from 10th December 1992.

water in any basin could be transferred to water short basin. This will enable additional use of 224 cubic kilometres of water thereby increasing the quantum of utilisable water from the existing 1140 cubic kilometres to 1364 cubic kilometres.

For maximizing the availability of utilisable water, the Government has prepared national perspectives for transfer of water from surplus areas to water-deficit areas, which comprises of two components viz., the Himalayan River Development component and Peninsular River Development component. The National Water Development Agency has been set up by the Government in 1982 for firming up these proposals. Already studies of 9 water transfer links but of 17 water transfer links in the Peninsular River Development component has been completed and the preliminary feasibility reports have been sent to the concerned State Government for concurrence. Further studies for the remaining water transfer links are programmed to be completed in the Eighth Plan. Studies on Himalayan component have also been included in the VIII Plan programme of the Agency.

The National Water Policy has accorded highest priority to drinking water in the planning and operation of systems. The Policy has also recommended that irrigation and multi-purpose projects should invariably include a drinking water component, wherever there is no alternative source of drinking water. According to this Policy, drinking water needs of human beings and animals should be the first charge on any available water. Pursuant to these recommendations, the Central Water Commission under the Ministry of Water Resources has prepared guidelines for provision of drinking water supply component in multipurpose and irrigation projects and circulated these to all the status and Union Territories.

The National Water Policy has recommended that both surface and ground water should be regularly monitored for quality. A phased programme should be undertaken for improvements in water quality. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has initiated appropriate steps in this regard.

The National Water Policy has recommended that exploitation of ground water resources should be so regulated as not to exceed the recharging possibilities, as also to ensure social equity. Ground water recharge projects should be developed and implemented for augmenting the available supplies. Over exploitation of ground water should be avoided near the coast to prevent ingress of sea water into sweet water aquifers. The Policy has laid emphasis on the conjunctive use of surface and ground water. A Model Bill for Regulation and Control of Groundwater Development has been prepared by the Government and sent to the State Governments for their views.

A Group of Officers was constituted by the Ministry of Water Resources in February, 1990 to prepare guidelines for protection measures to prevent water-logging and salinity in the irrigated command areas. According to the report of this Committee, the areas affected by water-logging and salinity in the various irrigated command areas are of the order of 2.46 million hectares and 3.86 million hectares respectively.

देश में सिंचाई सुविधाओं की कमी

4005. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव:** क्या जल संसाधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि स्वतंत्रता प्राप्ति के 43 वर्षों के पश्चात् भी देश में सिंचाई की पर्याप्त सुविधाएं उपलब्ध नहीं है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) सिंचाई की पर्याप्त सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या प्रयास किये गए हैं?

जल संसाधन मंत्री (श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल): (क) के (ग) 113.5 मिलियन हेक्टेयर की अनुमानित अन्ततः सिंचाई क्षमता की तुलना में सिंचाई क्षमता योजना पूर्व अवधि के दौरान 22.6 मिलियन हेक्टेयर से बढ़कर वर्ष 1991-92 के अन्त तक लगभग 81.2 मिलियन हेक्टेयर तक हो गयी है। अन्ततः सिंचाई क्षमता और अब तक सृजित की गई सिंचाई क्षमता के बीच अन्तर का मुख्य कारण वित्तीय परिव्ययों के रूप में इस क्षेत्र को दी गई निम्न प्राथमिकता है।